

REMARKS

In an earlier Office Action mailed July 6, 2005, the Examiner indicated that original claims 6 through 8 and 30 through 32 would be allowable if incorporated into their respective base claims 1 and 26, as well as with any intervening claims. By the present amended claims, the Applicant seeks to effect changes consistent with the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in numbered paragraphs 18 and 19 of that earlier Office Action.

Accordingly, the present claims have been cancelled, while new claim 48 corresponds almost verbatim to original claims 1 and 6, as well as intervening claims 3 and 4, any deviations therefrom as a result of ensuring proper antecedent basis and claim structure. Likewise, new claim 49 includes the limitations of original claims 26 and 30, along with intervening claims 27 through 29). The present amendment, by recasting the original claims in a manner earlier deemed allowable by the Examiner, does not raise any new issues.

In a telephone interview on May 29, 2007, the Examiner indicated that each of the limitations from the objected claim 6 (as well as the limitations from the intervening claim 4) be incorporated into the rejected base claim 1, and that the resulting claim be renumbered, as claim 1 had been cancelled. The Applicant respectfully submits that new claim 48 is responsive to the Examiner's instructions. Thus, in new claim 48, the first clause is identical to that of original claim 1, while the second clause includes all of the limitations of original claim 1, with the additional recitation of at least a portion of said engaging member defines a curvilinear race with pawls forming at least a portion of said race taken from original claim 3. The third clause of new claim 48 includes all of the limitations of original claim 1, with the additional recitation of through said pawls that make up said ratcheting mechanism taken from original claim 3. Breaking up original claim 3 into two separate locations in new claim 48 is necessary, as otherwise introduction of the entirety of claim 3 into a single location would cause antecedent basis problems. Finally, the last clause of new claim 48 fully incorporates the limitations from original claims 4 and 6.

Likewise, new claim 49 reflects the same effort to reconstruct claims 26 and 30 (with intervening claims 27 through 29), where all of the limitations of the first clause that recites a wrench are preserved, while further including said engaging member comprising a closed end disposed adjacent said handle and an open end disposed away from said closed end from original claim 27 into the sub-clause that recites an engaging member coupled to the handle. Similarly, the sub-clause that recites the ratcheting mechanism cooperative with the engaging member further includes that such that pawls making up said ratcheting mechanism form at least a portion of a race in said engaging member is culled from original claim 28. The second clause, which recites an adapter ring, is preserved in its entirety from original claim 26, and further includes, in their substantial entirety, the limitations from original claims 29 and 30 that recite that said adapter ring comprises] a plurality of teeth disposed around the periphery thereof, said teeth configured to engage said pawls to make said adapter ring rotatably responsive to rotation of said wrench, said adapter ring comprising a plurality of detents projecting axially therefrom to define a castellated shape thereby, said detents configured to be substantially alignable with corresponding slots in a nut. As with original claim 3 above, original claim 27 had to be broken up into two separate locations in new claim 49 to avoid antecedent basis problems.

The remaining dependent claims have been withdrawn in order to allow the Examiner to more easily focus on the two new independent claims. In light of the foregoing amendments in conjunction with the Applicant's understanding of the Examiner's earlier indication of allowable subject matter, notification of allowable subject matter is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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